

Upcoming LIP Events and Workshops



MAS has a number of field trips scheduled for 2009. Please contact trip leaders for last minute changes and updates. To see their currently scheduled events. [Click here to view a full schedule of MAS events.](#)

2009 Field Trips to Past LIP Project Sites:

Sunday, April 19: Faville Grove Sanctuary West

Experience Madison Audubon Society's Faville Grove Sanctuary with sanctuary ecologist and land steward, Lars Higdon. Participants will hike through northwestern Jefferson County's recessional glacial terrain while viewing its attendant array of plant communities (wetland, prairie, sedge meadow, perched tamarack bog, fen, savanna, and woodland). We expect to see Sandhill Cranes, various migratory waterfowl and songbirds, hawks, grassland birds and other resident species. It is not unusual to see at least one flock of cormorants enroute to Green Bay. The field trip will last 2-3 hours. Meet at the west unit of the sanctuary at 7:15 a.m.

From Madison, travel east on I-94 to the Lake Mills/Waterloo exit, then go 3 miles north on Hwy. 89 to the old farmstead at N7710 Hwy. 89. If you have questions, call Lars at (608) 220-9563.



Friends of the UW-Madison Arboretum

Native Plant Sale – Saturday, May 9

Orders can be placed now through March 20 for your choice of over 100 varieties of woodland and prairie native plants (including a rain garden, butterfly/hummingbird garden, savanna garden, children's prairie garden) and native shrubs, vines and trees. All species are native to the area and are propagated plants, not dug from the wild. The pre-order brochure is available at www.uwarboretum.org/foa or phone (608) 263-7760.

THE ALDO LEOPOLD FOUNDATION

The Woodland School



For the past eight years, the Woodland School has been assisting people responsible for managing both public and private land in creating and realizing their own conservation vision. Our hands-on approach gives participants the confidence to take positive actions from participating in a prescribed burn on their property to selecting trees for timber stand improvement in their woodlot, to applying herbicides in controlling invasive species. Registration is Required.

Spring 2009 Schedule (click here to view full Course [Calendar](#)):

Thursday, April 2-Friday, April 3: [Introduction to Prescribed Burning](#)

Saturday, April 25: [Controlling Invasive Plants](#)

Saturday, May 2: [Trees to Trillium](#)

Saturday, May 9: [Birding the IBA](#)

Saturday, May 16: [Your Land, Your Vision](#)



Join us in the field! Natural Resources Foundation field trips provide opportunities for participants to learn about natural resource conservation and management issues throughout the state. Trips are led by Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) experts and others who share their love and knowledge of Wisconsin's natural resources with participants.

Our 2009 field trip season will be filled with exciting opportunities - from spring warblers to autumn owl migration, dragonfly identification to elk calf tagging, pothole prairies to soaring vistas - we will take you there with **over 70 field trip opportunities** from April through October. [Click here to download a PDF booklet of public trips.](#) Registration is Required.

2009 Field Trips to LIP Project Sites:

48. Prairies at their Peak

Behold the beauty of prairie at peak bloom! Marvel at numerous plants & birds harbored among the many habitats at Pleasant Valley Conservancy SNA: savannas, prairies, oak woods, wetlands & more.

Physical Demand Level 2- Easy short hike on level terrain

Sunday, July 12, 1-4 p.m.

Black Earth, Dane Co.

Tom & Kathie Brock, leaders

Limit: 30

55. Prairie Bloom at Audubon Goose Pond SNA

Enjoy a sea of over 400 acres of prairie in full-bloom! Learn about prairie restoration, management & the wildlife it harbors.

Physical Demand Level 2- Easy short hike on level terrain

Saturday, August 1, 9:30 a.m.-noon

Arlington, Columbia Co.

Sue Foote-Martin & Mark Martin, leaders

Limit: 25



2009 TPE Field Trips

Join us for informative tours of prairies, savannas, and open woodlands that range from high quality natural areas to newly begun restorations and plantings. Learn to identify the wildflowers and animals that inhabit these gems of nature, or come to simply enjoy the sites and sounds. These trips give you opportunities to see, first hand, the results of various management/restoration strategies & techniques, and a chance to share your interest in prairies by bringing a friend. [Click here to view a complete schedule of 2009 TPE Field Trips](#)

What to bring: Field trips generally proceed rain or shine except for severe weather or unless otherwise noted, so bring appropriate clothing and apparel. A hat, long-pants, and sturdy footwear are recommended, along with sunscreen and insect/tick repellant. For long hikes, be sure to bring water, and, if it is an all-day event, something to eat.

Please call trip leaders to confirm that the trip is still on.

2009 Field Trips to Past LIP Project Sites:

Saturday, May 2: Swamp Lover's Foundation/Ice Age Trail Dry Lime Prairie Remnant Dane Co, WI

Time: 10:00 AM to Noon

Trip leader: Craig Annen (608-424-6997; 608-547-1713) annen00@aol.com

In 1986, Gerald Goth and H. Lee Swanson discovered small populations of several native prairie species growing in open spaces amongst an impenetrable tangle of trees and shrubs on a south-facing slope on their property. One of the species turned out to be the northernmost, non-planted (natural) population of pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*) known from Wisconsin. They have been actively managing this site since then, and formed a non-profit foundation to protect and rehabilitate the remnant communities on their property. Twenty-three years later, this 30-acre dry prairie remnant supports more than 160 native plant species, several of which are rare, uncommon, or listed. The Swamp Lover's Foundation is deeding their property piecemeal to the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation so that it can be experienced by the public and protected in perpetuity. This remnant additionally supports several Species of Greatest Conservation Need bird species, bull snakes, blue racers, prairie voles, pink streak moths, and a species of wasp previously unknown from Wisconsin. Management and survey initiatives will be discussed. The hike will involve some steep terrain but most of the tour will be on trails. Wear appropriate footwear and bring bug spray, as chigger mites are aggressive at this site. Refreshments and portable bathrooms will be available.

Directions: From the intersection of HWY 14 and CTH KP (immediately west of Cross Plains), travel north on CTH KP approximately 1/8 mile. Turn left on Scheele Road (gravel) Take the first right onto another gravel road and park in the mowed area near the firewood piles at the base of the hill. Do not park along the gravel road, as you may get stuck.

Saturday, May 23: Birds & Flowers - Underwood & Schurch-Thomson Prairies

Iowa Co., WI

Time: 8:00 to 11:30 AM

Trip leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net).

Come see Schurch-Thomson Prairie, which is part of TPE's 530-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve, and the adjacent Underwood Prairie which is privately owned by the Underwood family. These are dry and dry-mesic prairie remnants in a 400-acre sea of CRP grassland rich with grassland birds. Shooting stars (massive displays) and many other spring flowers will be in bloom. Grassland birds, such as bobolinks, meadowlarks, grasshopper sparrows, upland sandpipers, and Henslow's sparrows, should be at peak activity. Bring binoculars and be prepared for a long hike (hat, sun screen, & water).

Directions: From the intersection of US Hwy 18-151 and County F (south of Blue Mounds in western Dane County), take F approximately 5 miles south. Turn right onto Reilly Road, and proceed 300 yards. Park along Reilly Road. (Note: Be sure to stay on F. A half mile down F from 18-151, F turns to the right & the straight ahead road becomes County Z.)

Wednesday, May 27: Schurch-Thomson and Underwood Prairies

Iowa County, WI

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Trip Leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)

Come hike into the secluded valley of the Schurch-Thomson and Underwood prairies for an evening of exploring dry and dry-mesic prairie remnants, progress being made to recover degraded and overgrown prairie sod, and efforts at inter-seeding prairie vegetation into smooth brome grass sod. Spectacular displays of shooting stars should be in the offering. Schurch-Thomson Prairie is a 160-acre unit of TPE's 530-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve and is adjacent to the privately owned Underwood Prairie. TPE has a management agreement to manage and restore prairie on approximately 20 acres of the Underwood family land. The hike will include extensive grassland bird habitat. So bring binoculars, and be prepared for a long hike.

Directions: From the intersection of US Hwy 18-151 and County F (south of Blue Mounds in western Dane County), take F approximately 5 miles south. Turn right onto Reilly Road, and proceed to the end of the road. We will be meeting by the barn. (Note: A half mile down F from 18-151, pay close attention to the road signs, for F turns to the right & the straight ahead road becomes County Z. Stay on F.)

**Tuesday, June 2: Spring Wildflowers of Foster Hill & Foster Cemetery
Pierce County, River Falls, WI**

Time: 6:00 PM

Contact: Wayne Huhnke (Owner of Kinnickinnic Natives) www.kinninatives.com

715-425-7605 715-222-6910 cell 715-425-0214 fax

TPE St. Croix Valley is actively managing this concentration of Prairie & Oak Savanna remnants collectively known as Foster Hill. Starting with Foster Cemetery in 1998, management efforts have expanded unto neighboring private properties with the use of a US Fish & Wildlife Private Land Stewardship Grant & Wisconsin DNR's, Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). Come see the acres of pucoon, prairie smoke, penstemon grandiflorous, etc.... that have resulted from this extensive brushing and burning.

Level of walking difficulty: Rough uneven ground. We will hike into the valley and back out again with a wildflower walk in between. Meet at The River Falls Waste Water Treatment Plant where we will be shuttled to the starting point of the hike.

Directions: From North Main Street in River Falls, Turn west at stoplight on to West Maple S, proceed approx. 9 blocks on Maple. Turn south on Apollo Road, (There is a sign directing to the RF Waste Water Treatment Plant) proceed south to the plant gate.

**Thursday, June 11: Ripp Prairies
Dane County, WI**

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Trip leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065).

Visit two small (3-5 acre), but high quality, prairie remnants on north facing slopes. These sites have very diverse prairie that ranges from mesic to dry. Prairie phlox should be in full bloom. These are private sites not open to the public, so this is a rare chance to see them. The Empire-Sauk Chapter has long standing informal management agreements with the owners.

Directions: From the junction of Hwys 19 and 113 in Waunakee, take Hwy 113 north 2.5 miles, then turn right (east) onto Madigan Road. Proceed on Madigan for 1.0 miles just past the Hauser Road, and around a bend and hill. Park along the road (off the pavement).

**Saturday, June 13: Holland Sand Prairie
La Crosse County, WI**

Time: 10:00 AM

Trip Leader: Jim Rogala (608-786-1855)

This protected 60+ acre parcel is largely covered by prairie on the ancient sand terrace of the Mississippi River. Our previous sponsored trips to this prairie have been on earlier dates, so we'll get a chance to see the early summer bloomers of sand prairies on this hike. We will also be able to see the progress being made in the restoration efforts led by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, and discuss future plans for restoration. The walk will be near the road on fairly level terrain.

Directions: Exit McHugh Road off HWY 35 north of Holmen. Go west approx. 1/2 miles, park on the south side of the road.

**Saturday, June 20: Butterflies and Wildflowers at Pleasant Valley Conservancy
Dane Co., WI**

Time: 9:30 AM - Noon

Trip Leaders: Kathie and Tom Brock, Ann Thering. Tom (608-238-5050), tdbrock@charter.net, or Ann, therannnc@yahoo.com, (608-836-1097).

Contact the trip leaders only if you have questions.

Pleasant Valley Conservancy is one of our newest State Natural Areas and a TPE preserve, with outstanding topography and scenic beauty. It is situated in the Driftless Area and boasts steep goat prairies on south-facing hillsides and oak savanna along the ridge top. There is also a large high quality marsh in the adjacent lowland area. The various habitats are home to numerous butterflies. This time of year we hope to see Baltimore Checkerspot and perhaps some wetland skippers, such as Mulberry Wing. Other possible butterfly species include Black Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail, American Lady, fritillaries, blues, hairstreaks, and sulfurs. All of these butterflies will have many wonderful native plants to nectar on this time of year. We will be hiking two to three miles, including a steep hillside. Long pants, a hat, water, and sturdy hiking shoes are recommended.

Close-focusing binoculars are also useful. This is a joint trip with The Prairie Enthusiasts, Madison Audubon Society, & Southern WI Butterfly Association.

Directions: The Conservancy is 5.5 miles southwest of the village of Black Earth. Head south from the center of Black Earth on County Hwy.

F/Wisconsin 78. Turn right at County F/County KP/Madison St. Go about 1.1 miles on County F/KP and turn left on F. Go 3.7 miles to Pleasant Valley Rd., which enters from the left. Turn left on Pleasant Valley Rd. The preserve is on both sides of Pleasant Valley Rd. To reach the trail entrance, continue past the buildings and the steep hillside until you reach an open area and walking trail entrance on your left (about 3/4 mile east on Pleasant Valley Rd, from the junction with County F). Cars should be parked off the road facing the entrance.

**Wednesday, July 1: Schurch-Thomson and Underwood Prairies
Iowa County, WI**

Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Trip Leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065)

Come see displays of leadplant, Coreopsis, and pale purple coneflower, along with regal fritillaries and other prairie butterflies. Schurch-Thomson Prairie is a 160-acre unit of TPE's 530-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve and is adjacent to the privately owned Underwood Prairie. TPE has a management agreement to manage and restore prairie on approximately 20 acres of the Underwood family land. The hike will include extensive grassland bird habitat along with prairie. So bring binoculars, and be prepared for a long hike.

Directions: From the intersection of US Hwy 18-151 and County F (south of Blue Mounds in western Dane County), take F approximately 5 miles south. Turn right onto Reilly Road, and proceed to the end of the road. We will be

meeting by the barn. (Note: A half mile down F from 18-151, pay close attention to the road signs, for F turns to the right & the straight ahead road becomes County Z. Stay on F.)

**Thursday, July 9: Restorations at Goose Pond
Columbia Co., WI**

Time: picnic 6:00 PM & hike 7:15 PM

Trip Leader: Mark Martin (608-635-4160)

Following the Empire-Sauk Chapter annual picnic & meeting of the membership at Madison Audubon's Goose Pond, we will hike two prairie restorations totaling 110 acres. One restoration is in the 4th growing year & one is in its second year. 35 species flowered the year of establishment in the youngest restoration. Both were planted with a high diversity of species & a good amount of seed. Visitors will be able to view a large stand of old field thistles (a not so common native prairie thistle). We are thinking of submitting the stand of thistles to the Guinness Book of World Records. Both have mesic & dry-mesic plantings.

Directions: We will be meeting at W7503 Kampen Road (1/4 mile north of the Goose Pond). One mile south of Arlington on Kampen Road (Kampen Road is west of Goose Pond Road and east of County Highway I).

**Saturday, July 18: Flowers and Butterflies of Schurch-Thomson
Prairie
Iowa Co. WI**

Time: 9:00 – Noon

Trip Leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)

Come visit TPE's Schurch-Thomson Prairie, and the adjacent privately owned Underwood Prairie. The latter is closed to the public, so this is a great opportunity to see it up close. These and adjacent properties form a complex of remnant prairie and CRP grasslands that are rich with grassland birds, butterflies, and dragonflies. Summer flowers will be in bloom, and we hope to see the rare Regal Fritillary and many other butterflies. Last year we found four species of fritillaries. Be prepared for a long hike and bring binoculars for butterfly viewing (the closer they can focus the better). We will have a few extra binoculars. This is a joint trip of TPE, Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association, and Madison Audubon Society.

Directions: From Hwy 151 at Blue Mounds take F south (note: F makes a right angle turn). After 5 miles turn right onto Reilly Road. Go to the end and park by the barn.